(a) whether the Indian Institute of Science has developed an aeroplane called Sarika, for surveying the bordering areas and areas affected by natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost for the development of said aeroplane; and

(d) by when the aeroplane is expected to be put to use?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore a constitutent unit of CSIR and not Indian Institute of Science has taken up a project for the design, fabrication and air-worthiness testing of a light transport aircraft named SARAS and not Sarika. It would be multi-role aircraft with applications among others for coast guard, air ambulance, hinterland reach etc.

(c) and (d) The total envisaged approved cost for the project is Rs. 131.38 crore and the project duration is 3-1/2 years from June, 1999. SARAS is envisaged to be ready for operational use by 2004.

Promotion under merit assessment scheme in CSIR

1822. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the merit Assessment Scheme adopted in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is applicable to Group III employees working in Institutes/ Laboratories of CSIR; and

(b) if so, the names, qualifications, grade and assessment period of Group III employees promoted under Merit Assessment Scheme in CSIR Laboratories during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes sir, the Merit Assessment Scheme was made applicable to the CSIR S&T employees belonging to Group IV and in Group III from Grade 111(3) to 111(6), only who were engaged in R&D activities and possessed the entry level qualifications of Group IV This provision of the scheme has been

held in abeyance w.e.f. 1.4.1992. No. merit assessment has been made since 1.4.1992.

Career development of S and T staff

1823. SHRI A VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the committee set up to review the CSIR under the chairmanship of Prof. Abid Hussain, recommended in its report the systematic and planned career development of all S&T staff; and

(b) if so, the number of scientist (Group IV), in each Laboratory/Institute of CSIR, including the CSIR (HQ), belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST), registered for Ph.D. on various universities/institutes and also, whose registration for Ph.D was objected/rejected/pending for appropriate decision for the period 1992—99, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes sir, The review committee has recommended as follows:

(1) Having two streams of Scientific personnel: (i) normal stream recruited and compensated as per the then prevailing system and (ii) special stream of contract appointments on 50% higher salary;

(2) Combining of the then merit promotion and assessment promotion schemes;

(3) Setting up a Human Resource Development Group for systematic planned career development of all staff;

(4) Setting up of a central training institute for training and retraining purposes.

(b) Information in respect of scientist (Group IV) belonging to Scheduled Castes category is placed at Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 52]. Information in respect of scientist (Group IV) belonging to Scheduled Tribes category is placed at Annexure *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 52]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 11.00 on Monday, the 13th March, 2000.

The House than adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 13th March, 2000.